

MIDDLEBURY REGISTER

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The Register will be found on file at the Congressional Library reading room, Washington, D. C.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1915.

There were 42 commitments to the House of Correction in November. Let's vote for prohibition.

If Mr. Henry Ford would promise to cruise about in quiet southern waters until the Germans were soundly whipped, and would send us an invitation, we might go.

Somehow a Thanksgiving service on Wednesday evening is not a real Thanksgiving meeting. The Governor's excellent proclamation said something about giving thanks in places of worship "on that day."

The disappearance of Mr. John J. Murphy of the Marble Savings Bank of Rutland proves to be a case of nervous break-down and to have nothing to do with financial irregularities. His accounts are found to be in perfect condition and no assets are missing. It is fortunate that Vermont has in Mr. Frank C. Williams a bank examiner whose word that the bank is in very sound condition and that no apprehension need be felt by any depositor can be absolutely relied upon.

Mr. Hubbard does not draw entirely upon his imagination as to wild flowers collected by country school children in his interesting installment of "The Kindly Deeds Society" this week. Some years ago he gave prizes to the children of the Bread Loaf district for the largest number of different flowers. The first prize was taken by William Damon, son of Reuben Damon, now of East Middlebury, whose collection numbered over a hundred different species.

VIEWS OF VERMONT SCENERY.

The State publicity department suggests that Vermont hotels and other places where the display of advertising matter of the kind is permitted, display Vermont scenery in preference to pictures of scenery from other States. Ought to have been thought of before. But as the Rutland Herald says, "Views from elsewhere are so easily procurable," evidently intimating that they are much easier to get than views of our own Vermont scenery. The State department of publicity can easily remedy this.—Vermont Union-Journal.

Probably the largest collection of views of Vermont scenery is in the two volumes of "Ellen" by the late Joseph Battall. Many others of great beauty are found in the "Home Library" compiled by Mr. Battall. He spent a great deal of time and money in securing photographs of Vermont's beauty spots and was at great pains to reproduce them so that they could be preserved in many homes at small cost.

MR. HEPBURN ON PROSPERITY.

There are few men in the country better qualified to speak on business conditions and whose opinions are received with greater respect than Mr. A. Barton Hepburn. He never talks for effect and his utterances are always conservative and careful. It means something, therefore, when the New York Times gives his opinion first place in an article under the heading "Prosperity to Stay," which quotes the optimistic views of a dozen leading business men of New York. Mr. Hepburn said: "The demands made on the manufacturing and other resources of the country by the necessities of Europe has not only increased prosperity in some lines but has given a general upward tendency to the volume of business. I think there is a reason to expect the continuance of good times; even if the war stops within the next year. I think that a good general business will follow the present somewhat lopsided business."

ERADICATING FERNS.

A call has been made by one newspaper that Vermont ferns be protected from extinction. The farmer will not make such a demand, as the fern has greatly reduced the value of his pasture land. The extinction of the fern from Vermont pastures would be worth millions to the State as a whole. If the people of Bennington county have found the marketing of ferns profitable business they should use sufficient land for the propagation of ferns to supply the market, but in a general way ferns are a nuisance whose abatement would be enthusiastically welcomed.—St. Johnsbury Caledonian.

The Caledonian is undoubtedly right

and ferns are a pest in many Addison County pastures. But how get rid of them? Farmers' Bulletin No. 687 of the U. S. Department of Agriculture undertakes to tell how and its advice is specially adapted to eastern conditions. Spraying with various mixtures has been tried, and also salting live stock in fern pastures so that the stock eat and trample the ferns in getting the salt. But the government experts find that the best method is that recommended over 300 years ago by Thomas Tusser in his "Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandrie."

"In June and August, as well doth appeere,
Is best to mow Brekes of all times of the yeere."

The reason for selecting June and August is that in those months the spores are nearing maturity, and cutting prevents propagation.

WATER POWER QUESTIONS.

The Public Service Commission has great responsibility in deciding the question presented in the application for an incorporation to develop a great water power on the Middlebury river. On general principles they must favor industrial development and the addition of some 10,000 horse power for the business of the State would seem to be a public benefit. But every such proposal must be considered on its merits, and before the Commission can grant a charter which confers the right of eminent domain, certain questions must be carefully weighed.

Among such questions are these: Are the promoters men of ability, financial and otherwise, to put the project through? Is there real need of the service they propose to render? Will the construction be safe, so as not to endanger lives and property by the possibility of a flood? Have the promoters sufficient lands and rights to justify them in such an application? Are there other public interests which would be damaged by the proposed construction beyond the power of any financial consideration to compensate? Will the project further the general good of the State or merely some particular locality, perhaps at the expense of other regions which have a higher natural claim to such benefits?

Several of these questions have an important bearing on this petition. What have the people of East Middlebury and the farms lower on the river to say of a dam 200 feet high impounding 200,000,000 cubic feet of water in the gorge above their homes? What does Ripton think of abandoning a mile and a half of the best of their road down the mountain, that immediately below their village, and returning to the old road on the mountain, with its almost impossible grades? Is not Bread Loaf Inn entitled to some consideration, upon which Joseph Battall spent so much money and by which he attracted so many distinguished visitors to Vermont? And how about Mr. Battall's specific prescription that the gorge should be preserved forever as one of the beauty spots of Vermont for the benefit of the people of the State and the visitors to her borders? Is a commercial company to be given the right to defeat such a noble, generous purpose for the sake of their own profit?

The right of eminent domain is a very serious matter and should be granted only when large public interests unquestionably demand it. It is a question whether it should ever be accorded for a water power project, in which the purpose is to sell energy to private consumers. There may be cases where the owners of a large fraction of the riparian rights necessary for a power may justly call in the right of condemnation against the owner of a small fraction of such rights, but to propose its use in favor of a small owner against those who control a much greater portion of the stream is against fundamental principles of equity and reason.

A very large and important social question is involved in this local problem. The ease and comparative low cost of conveying electrical power long distances is tending to concentrate industry and population in large centers. There is nothing in the law to prevent the transmission of all the energy of Vermont's white coal to a half dozen central points. But there can be no question that in the long run the interests of Vermont will be served, not by a few large and flourishing centers, but by hundreds of small, thriving villages, scattered in and out among the mountains from one end of the State to the other. Such hamlets furnish the best markets for surrounding farms and encourage an even agricultural prosperity throughout the State. Schools and churches are encouraged and every moral and social interest is furthered. A town that is blessed with water power and lets it go for a temporary advantage to build up industry forty miles away has sold its future and placed a terrible handicap on unborn generations. Middlebury may once more thank its good friend Joseph Battall that he has placed in the hands of those who revere his memory the means that are likely to be able to prevent such disaster in its case.

Dyspepsia is America's curse. To restore digestion, normal weight, good health and purify the blood, use Burdock Blood Bitters. Sold at all drug stores. Price \$1.00—adv.

OBSERVATIONS OF A VEMONT IN THE FAR WEST.

To the Editor of the Register:

Leaving Chicago late on the evening of October 29th, we crossed the Mississippi early the next morning and found ourselves in the Iowa cornfield (apparently Iowa has only one cornfield.) The season has been very wet and although frost bitten the corn had not been picked, as they hoped it would dry out and not spoil when cribbed. Crossing the Missouri river at Omaha we rode on through the corn and alfalfa fields of Nebraska and went to sleep in the corn to awake in a very deserted portion of Colorado. Later we left the train for a side trip to Fort Collins and Loveland. The land here is irrigated, with water from the mountains held back by large artificial lakes. Beets for the sugar factory, alfalfa and potatoes are the principal crops.

Denver, located one mile above sea level and twenty-three miles from the mountains, is a very beautiful city with many fine parks. In the largest there is a reservation for automobile parties to camp.

Our next stop was at Colorado Springs, a great beauty spot. The Springs, however, are six miles west at Manitou, near the foot of Pike's Peak, with the Garden of the Gods just north, and the newly discovered Cave near by.

Leaving Colorado Springs we had our first railroad accident at Buttes, Colo. Our engine plowed nearly through the saloon of a freight train throwing us out of our seats but with little injury otherwise. After a half hour delay we shook off the caboose and went around on the side track.

At Concrete, Colo., is the largest cement mill in the world with a capacity of 11 million pounds a year. The Colorado Oil Wells are at Florence just above. At Canon City we took the observation car. The railroad follows the Arkansas river up through the Canon. The rocks are nearly perpendicular and from 2000 to 2600 feet high. The swinging bridge over a sharp curve in the river is suspended from steel props set in the sides of the Canon above the train. We continued up the river past Leadville to Tennessee Pass over 10,000 feet above sea level. It is a little hard to breathe at this altitude.

We awoke in the desert the next morning, nothing in sight to indicate that any man had been there in a thousand years. I could easily imagine the Children of Israel wandering here. At Green River is an irrigated oasis and finally at Helper are the Utah coal mines and soon we pass Castle Gate and enter the Canon and cross the mountain to the irrigated and prolific valley of Salt Lake.

Salt Lake was laid out by a Vermonter, and he was very proud of his native State. While we do not agree with his theology, we must admit that Brigham Young was a sagacious and far-seeing man and had a wonderful power over men to make them do his will and think as he did. The tabernacle is built without nails, the roof is self-supporting, and we heard a pin drop across the room, 200 feet away. The temple is sacred ground. No gentile can enter there.

The streets of Salt Lake City are 132 feet wide, laid with the compass and numbered in all directions from Temple square. The city is fifteen miles from Salt Lake. The water in Salt Lake is 22.2 per cent salt. It is pumped into large shallow areas; the salt settles and the water is drawn off and the salt plowed up and placed in large piles and when refined is 100 per cent pure. Ogden is a great live stock center. Here we travel 18 miles across Salt Lake and again enter the desert. The stations are thirty miles apart. At the foot of the mountains the train is divided and the large new type oil burning locomotives with sixteen drive wheels and four compound cylinders were attached. We climb the sides of the mountain rapidly and look far down the valleys travelling through many miles of snow sheds. At Colfax is the first large irrigated fruit section. There is very little fruit that can be grown anywhere in California without irrigation.

San Francisco, Oakland and Berkeley are rapidly growing cities. At Berkeley is located the University of California with the Greek theatre built of cement in the side of a hill.

All of the business portion of San Francisco, except a part of the Hall of Records and the United States Mint, has been either built up or the front covered with bill boards since the earthquake. You can find the large cracks and many other marks if you look for them, but if you have any respect for the feeling of your San Francisco friends you will never say earthquake. They speak of the great fire.

The exposition is all that is claimed for it. The Tower of Jewels is magnificent and the artistic arrangement of the courts, buildings and electrical effects is unequalled.

Canada with its vast panoramic views leads in interior arrangement and France makes the most magnificent display and there never was the equal of the California fruit display. Fifty miles south of San Francisco is Santa Clara County. We stop at the Leland Stanford University at Palo Alto on the way. The Memorial Chapel is the finest I was ever in. The mark of the earthquake is very plain here although mostly repaired.

Santa Clara valley produces 75 per cent of all the dried fruit of California. The irrigation is very different from that in Colorado and Utah. Here wells large enough to place a centrifugal pump that will throw a ten inch stream are dug from 60 to 140 feet deep, the depth depending on the location. The peaches, prunes and apricots are dried in the open air.

At Felton west of San Jose is located one group of the big trees. The largest solid tree called the Giant is over 20 feet in diameter and was 381 feet high. 75 feet of the top is broken off now.

From here south we see more dry farming for wheat, barley and oats. They are plowing and sowing now and harvest in May. It takes from six to ten horses to draw one plow. The land is just as it was left last May and they have no rains for six months. Coal is from \$10 to \$20 per ton and wood as high as \$16 per cord in some places. These are facts that some learn after they have invested all the money they have.

Los Angeles is a growing city, but business is very dull now on this coast. Pasadena, the most beautiful city and San Diego with its little fair would make you stay there always if it were possible, and I think a man with money to spend could live here easier than anywhere I know.

The thermometer ranges from 30 to 70 during the whole year.

Our San Jose friends tried to make us say that was the only place to live (they get up there at 2 a. m. to light the fire pots and save the buds in spring) but old Vermont is good enough for me.

A. W. FOOTE.

Los Angeles, Cal., November 25, 1915.

DR. EDWARD BRECK TO LECTURE

The Student Life committee of the faculty has arranged for an illustrated lecture by Dr. Edward Breck on the subject of "Our Navy and What It Means," to be given at 8 p. m. on the evening of December 8, in the McCullough Gymnasium. The lecture will be free and all members of the faculty, student body and friends of the college are invited to attend.

Dr. Breck comes to Middlebury under the auspices of the Navy League of the United States, which is said to be a non-partisan, patriotic society, whose purpose is to acquire and to spread before the citizens of the country, information as to the condition of the United States naval forces and ships, and to awaken public interest and activity in all matters tending to aid, improve and develop the efficiency of navy.

Edward Breck, M. A., Ph. D., the subject of whose lecture is "Our Navy and What It Means," comes of the oldest Colonial stock and of naval family, his father having died for his country in the Civil War as Lieut.-Com. in the U. S. navy. Educated at Oberlin, Amherst, Cambridge in England, Munich and Leipzig, the last named university conferring upon him the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 1887, he has lived much of his life abroad as student, journalist, author and editor. His published writings cover an astonishing amount of ground, from Anglo-Saxon literature through German poetry to big game hunting and the art of fencing. Always a keen student of naval matters, he volunteered to go to Spain as secret agent, when, at the outbreak of the Spanish War, he was transferred from his position as American Vice Consul-General at Berlin to the Embassy as assistant to our Naval Attaché. Refused at first, he was at last sent to Spain when the destruction of Cervera's fleet made it necessary to have a perfect knowledge of the Spanish defenses, so that an American fleet, threatening the coast of Spain might not operate in the dark. Dr. Breck, disguised as a German alienist, was very successful in gathering information in regard to the defensive condition of Spain, furnishing our Navy Department with plans and photographs of batteries, harbors, etc. Fired at twice by sentries while photographing, he was at last arrested at Cadiz and owed his life only to his Prussian passport and his German accent, for both of which the German Consul vouched as genuine.

Since the war Dr. Breck has confined himself to lecturing and to literature, and was one of the editors of the latest edition of the "Encyclopaedia Britannica." His books on hunting, fishing and nature, "The Way of the Woods," and "Wilderness Pets," are standards of their kind, while his numerous magazine articles on these subjects stamp him as the greatest authority in this field.

Dr. Breck is a speaker of force and conviction. The newspapers have paid him a high tribute as an orator. "It is amazing," wrote the Philadelphia Enquirer, "that one man should know so much and be able to tell it so well."

Others—Watch Irritable Children!

That fever, paleness, grinding of teeth while asleep, and coated tongues are indications that your child has worms in its system. Kickapoo Worm Killer quickly gets rid of these parasites. It is perfectly safe for even the most delicate children. It is pleasant to take, has three effective medicinal qualities:—acts as a laxative, expels the worms, and tones up the system. Begin treatment today and eliminate the cause of irritability. 25c.—adv.

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Church Notes.

METHODIST CHURCH.

D. H. Corkran, Pastor.

Morning worship 10:45.

Bible school at noon.

Epworth League, 8:45.

Evening service, 7:30.

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH.

Rev. John Evans Bold, Rector.

Rectory No. 119 Main street.

7:30, Holy Communion (2nd, 4th and 6th Sundays.)

10:45, Morning Prayer, Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Sundays.)

10:00, Sunday school.

7:30, Evening Prayer.

MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH.

Rev. Roy E. Whittemore, Pastor

Morning worship at 10:45 o'clock with sermon. Subject, "Thinking and Doing."

Bible school at 12 o'clock. All invited.

Evening worship at 7:30 o'clock with sermon by the pastor.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

Rev. A. A. Lancaster, Pastor.

Morning worship, 10:45. Guy C. Hendry, Middlebury, '15, acting pastor of the Congregational church of New Haven, Vt., will preach.

Bible school at noon. Classes for all.

Arrangements will be made for the usual Christmas entertainment given by the school.

Christian Endeavor meets in the vestry at 8:45 p. m. Topic, "Golden Fruit from the Prayer Life."

Evening worship, 7:30 o'clock. Mr. Hendry will deliver the address. All are invited.

Bilious? Feel heavy after dinner? Bitter taste? Complexion sallow? Liver perhaps needs waking up. Doan's Regulator for bilious attacks. 25c at all stores.—adv.

BEQUEST TO COLLEGE.

The will of the late John A. Howe, '53, offered for probate in Albany, N. Y., contains a bequest of \$3000 to Middlebury College. It is understood that this amount is to establish a scholarship fund for descendants of the testator who may become students in the college.

FARMS

214 ACRES, 3 miles from village, 11 miles from Montpelier, good 8-room house, new horse barn, 50 acres grass and tillage, balance pasture and woodland. 350 worth of spruce can be cut this winter. Price only \$800 per acre. \$600 cash, balance very easy.

206 ACRES, 8 miles from Montpelier, 3 miles from depot and village, on good road. Barns cost \$3,000. Good old fashioned house, fine sugar works, lots of wood and some timber to sell, near good market. Will keep 20 to 25 cows and team, and with a silo will keep 30. Price, including crops, team, sugar implements and farming tools, \$4,600, \$1,600 cash, balance very easy. A good herd of cows can go with the farm if desired, on the installment plan.

City Farm

Only two miles out, 75 acres, fine modern house, steam/heat, hot and cold water, bath, etc., comfortable, barns, good silo, plenty wood, ten cows, one horse, quite an outfit of tools, together with hay, hay ensilage and fodder, all for \$6,500

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